

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Washington State Department of Health Recommendations**



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
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## HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GYPSY MOTH SPRAYING

Washington State Department of Agriculture has proposed to use a biological agent *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (Btk) for gypsy moth control in three local areas later this spring. If you live in the area to be sprayed, you are unlikely to experience any health problems due to the spray.

The spray contains bacteria that are natural to soil and have been used for years to kill pest caterpillars. The spray also contains water (99%), a sticking agent that contains synthetic latex (0.12 %), and traces of food crops and preservatives that are approved for use on food. In animal tests, Btk has shown almost no toxicity to mammals, birds, or fish, except at extremely high levels. Many years of experience with Btk products have shown that the vast majority of persons living in sprayed areas have reported no symptoms. Some members of the general public have complained of mild skin reactions; eye, nose, or throat irritation; and worsening of asthma or allergies after aerial spraying.

The Washington Department of Health (DOH) recommends that people in the area to be sprayed minimize exposure by doing the following:

1. Stay indoors for at least 30 minutes after the spraying to allow droplets to settle.
2. Wait until the spray has dried before letting skin touch the treated leaves and bushes.
3. Wash skin with soap and water if you come in contact with the spray.
4. People in the sprayed area can sign up with the Department of Agriculture (800- 443-6684) to be notified the day before spraying.

**Special health concerns:** It is possible that individuals with certain health conditions may be more sensitive to the spray. If you have asthma, severe allergies to food or food preservatives, or immune disorders, you may want to stay indoors longer or leave the sprayed area during the day of treatment. We encourage people with special health concerns to talk with their personal doctor for advice.

If you have an illness that you think is related to the spraying, please report this to the Department of Health at (360) 236-3360 or toll free at (888) 586-9427.

### For more health information:

Washington State Department of Health  
National Pesticide Information Center

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